



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY DIRECTS RESOURCES TO DISADVANTAGED SCHOOL DISTRICTS**  
***Orders up to \$12 Million to Improve Student Performance***

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley has ordered up to \$12 million in funding for disadvantaged school districts to improve student performance. Pursuant to Executive Order 61, signed late yesterday, these resources will be used to establish the Disadvantaged Students Supplemental Fund for eligible schools. Eligible schools will generally be high poverty, have low student performance and have high teacher turnover. The Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education will administer the fund.

“If we are going to continue to build the highly skilled workforce needed in this economy, we cannot retreat on our commitment to education,” said Easley. “We must ensure that every child in every region of our state has the opportunity for success.

“I had hoped that the legislature would provide this funding,” said Easley. “It is imperative that we provide these resources immediately so that they can be used in this school year. I believe that there is sufficient language in the totality of prior court decisions in *Leandro* to give me the executive authority to take this action.”

The Disadvantaged Students Supplemental Fund will provide resources to do the following:

- Establish a performance-based bonus system for teachers in traditionally hard-to-staff schools;
- Implement a Proven Strategies Program which would allow eligible school districts to develop customized plans by selecting from an approved menu of options including enhanced professional development and training for teachers and administrators, implementing model school improvement plans, after school program or targeted individual instruction and the development of Personal Education Plans (PEPs).

School districts will work with specialized Local Education Agency Assistance Teams to identify key challenges and to develop customized plans for school improvement.

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